

A. In the Claims

Please cancel claims 25 to 41 and add new claims 42 to 53.

42. (new) A cleansing method, comprising:

- (a) obtaining a first material, the first material containing a polymer having acrylonitrile and at least one of a styrene and conjugated diene;
- (b) contacting the polymer with an acid or an alkali to hydrolyze the acrylonitrile to form hydrophilic substituents in the acrylonitrile and to form a hydrolyzed polymer;
- (c) contacting the hydrolyzed polymer with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and
- (d) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound from the material to be cleaned.

43. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the hydrolyzed polymer.

44. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer comprises 5 to 80% of an acrylonitrile.

50. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52. (new) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the first material is pulverized, then melted, and then pelletized before polymer is contacted with the acid or alkali.

53. (new) A cleansing method, comprising:

(a) obtaining a first material, the first material containing a polymer selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR);

(b) pulverizing, then melting, and then pelletizing the first material;

(c) contacting the pelletized polymer with an acid or an alkali to hydrolyze the acrylonitrile to form hydrophilic substituents in the acrylonitrile and to form a hydrolyzed polymer;

(d) contacting the hydrolyzed polymer with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; wherein the material to be cleaned is selected from the group consisting of a effluent water, a solid material, is soil in a landfill, and an odor-emitting material; and

(e) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound from the material to be cleaned.